



The International Telecom Regulations (ITRs) and the Internet

Phil Rushton
Numbering and Standards Strategist

Introduction

- Background
- The ITR's – What they cover and the current status
- Pessimism vs. Optimism
- Current Issues
- What are YOUR Next Steps?

Background

- ITU is an Inter Governmental Organisation
- ITR's are an International treaty
- Preparation is underway in the Regional groups of the ITU
- Focus of discussions is the Council Working Group
- Some progress but exact scope of the ITR's is not defined hence.....
- The scope of the ITR's is fluid

The ITR's – What they cover and the current status

- Treaty
- Signed in 1988
- Interesting points
 - The term Administration and (Recognised) Operating Agency interchangeable
 - Assumes Administrations undertook commercial agreements – which they did 33 years ago
 - National telecommunication's changed at different paces (some not at all)
 - Commercial aspects outmoded (perhaps not relevant?)
 - Out of date?
 - Are they relevant? Are they needed?
 - What do the ITR's cover?

Pessimism vs. Optimism

- Pessimism
 - Because Internet issues are not excluded, it means that the ITR's will cover Internet Governance issues
- Optimism
 - Because Internet issues are not excluded it means that the ITRs will not cover Internet Governance Issues
- Much written in the press...
 - US Government (and its agencies),
 - ITU
- Which is the safer approach.....

Pessimism or Optimism

Current (high level) Issues?

- Transposition of ITR's into National Law?
- All Telecommunications (capabilities)? Only International Telecommunications?
- Recommendations to become mandatory (national choice? Approval mechanisms – consensus? Or vote?)
- Internet traffic termination? To be discussed
- Combatting SPAM?
- Technical? Provide CLI? Country of Origin? On SIP?
- States to dictate routing? On SIP?

What are your next Steps?

- Pessimism better than Optimism?
- Limit scope of ITRs to “Public” defined services?
- Public defined services as defined in ITU Recommendations? (e.g. E.105 International Public Telephone Service)
- Ensure that you speak to your Government representatives?
- Speak with other RIR attendees and get them to speak to Government representatives? (– not all Governments participate – hence regional approach)